

REMARKS

Consideration of the application as preliminarily amended is respectfully requested.

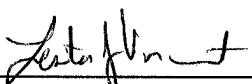
No Office Action has been received for this application and no admission is made that this preliminary amendment is made for reasons related to the statutory requirements for a patent. Applicants reserve all rights to the application of the doctrine of equivalents.

If there are any additional charges not covered by any check submitted, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: MAY 2, 2001



Lester J. Vincent
Reg. No. 31,460

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300